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and told him a communiqué would be issued but did not read him the proposed language. This so-called communiqué, which Alphand also informed me would be issued Saturday, finally appeared Tuesday, April 20, 1954, in Le Figaro (and perhaps in other newspapers) in the following terms:

> "On confirme de source autorisée que le gouvernement français a bien l'intention de rechercher avec les signataires du traité de Paris les moyens de renforcer le contrôle démocratique sur les communautés existantes ou en voie de création."

As a result, Mollet, at his conference last night, had, as Knight's memorandum will show, insufficient grounds for calling his various party meetings, but secured permission to convoke the Directing Committee of the Socialist Party as soon as an official response was received to the Party's demand for democratic control over the European Army.

It seems, to quote Le Monde of this evening, that, in the course of last night's meeting, the substance of the question was not discussed. The discussion was limited to the practical problems posed by the calling of a conference which could not take place until the three conditions were fulfilled (the meeting was evidently satisfied with the first two, namely British and American assurances) but which must also be provided for sufficiently soon to take effect before the ratification debate.

I went at seven o'clock to the residence, where a cocktail party was in full swing, to discuss something of the above with Merchant and MacArthur. They were not available but I took Bob Bowie home with me, where we had dinner with the Jameses. I explained the situation to Bob and suggested measures [redacted] to correct it.

Bob said that within the space of half an hour today Bidault had in effect thrown in his hand on the EDC and predicted Dien Bien Phu would fall in Indo China,

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from which disastrous consequences would flow. Bowie is deeply disturbed by the inability of the French Government to act with courage and determination.

De Staercke called me while I was at dinner to say things had been arranged in Belgium so that Spaak would be sworn in tomorrow morning and would arrive in Paris at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon. This is comforting.

Ridge Knight arrived after dinner, having been asked by the Embassy to draw up a cable on the developments affecting the Socialist demand for democratic control of the Army. After Bob left, Ridge and I sat down until midnight and constructed a long telegram on this and other points.

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